

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE TAVISTOCK

URBAN AREA FOR 1942.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Johnstone & Gentlemen,

I beg to submit an Annual Report for the year 1942. As you are aware, your Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Allen-Price, was called to the Services in October 1942 and I have, during his absence, assumed his duties, one of which being the preparation of this report which I have completed to the best of my ability from the material available.

The population of the Urban District, though still well above the average, shows a slight diminution on the figure for 1941, no doubt due to the fact that a number of evacuated persons have returned to their homes.

Births have increased, and the birth rate compares favourably with that of England and Wales. The number of deaths recorded was appreciably less than that of the preceding year, the death rate being 13.9 per 1,000 as against 15.0. The Infant Mortality rate shows a marked improvement, while the Maternal Mortality rate was nil.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES. With the exception of Tuberculosis, the position with regard to the Infectious Diseases was very satisfactory, only one case of Diphtheria and one of Puerperal Pyrexia being notified. There has been a marked increase, however, in the number of new cases of Tuberculosis and the number of deaths from this disease is higher. This has been generally the case throughout the Country; and the early detection of the disease, particularly by X Ray examination, and facilities for Sanatorium treatment, are of great importance. Scabies has again been prevalent, though, as the year progressed, the occurrence of this irritating skin disease appeared to be showing signs of abatement. Again, early advice and treatment will help to prevent its spread among the community.

I have no evidence of the spread of venereal diseases in the district, although there is a marked increase of these diseases in the Country as a whole. By bringing this fact before the public and by emphasizing the cause and urgent necessity of immediate and adequate treatment, it is hoped that an improvement in the position will be obtained.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNIZATION has been actively continued and it is estimated that 90% of the children attending the schools have completed the course. Progress has been made with the children aged 1 to 5 years. I would point out that the ideal time for getting this done is as soon as possible after a child has attained the age of 1 year. Facilities are available at the Infant Welfare Centre and School Clinic at the Church Hall in West Street on the first Friday in each month. The Clinic and Welfare Centre continue to serve a useful purpose in treating minor ailments, advising mothers on their babies' welfare, and distributing various foods.

WATER SUPPLY. I understand that the process of clearing the feeders has been continued throughout the year, and that there has been an adequate supply of good water for the Town.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD. Milk was sampled as usual and reports made to the appropriate Committee. It was agreed to obtain the services of an Additional Inspector who would devote half of his time to the supervision of beasts slaughtered at the Public Slaughterhouse, thus alleviating the unsatisfactory state of affairs which existed there throughout the year.

VITAL STATISTICS - 1941 figures in ()

POPULATION. 6861. (7065)

LIVE BIRTHS.

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	45 (36)	51 (45)	95 (81)
Illegitimate	2 (3)	3 (5)	5 (8)

Birth rate 14.6 per 1,000 resident population (12.5)
England and Wales 15.8 (14.2)

Still births 2 (3)

Still birth rate 20 per 1,000 live and still births (32.6)

DEATHS

Males	45 (55)
Females	50 (54)
Total	95 (109)

Death rate 13.9 per 1,000 population (15.0)

Deaths of infants under 1 year - 2 (4)

Death rate of infants under 1 year 20 per 1,000 live births (44.9)

England and Wales 49 per 1,000 live births (59)

TABLE OF CAUSES OF DEATH

Typhoid Fever..	..	0 (0)
Cerebro Spinal Fever..	..	0 (1)
Scarlet Fever..	..	0 (0)
Whooping Cough	..	0 (1)
Diphtheria	..	0 (0)
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	..	4 (2)
Other forms of Tuberculosis	..	2 (0)
Syphilitic Diseases	..	1 (0)
Influenza	..	2 (1)
Measles	..	0 (0)
Cancer	..	12 (19)
Cerebral Haemorrhage..	..	16 (21)
Heart Disease..	..	30 (29)
Other Circulatory diseases	..	3 (2)
Bronchitis	..	3 (9)
Pneumonia	..	2 (2)
Diseases of Digestive System	..	2 (3)
Puerperal Diseases	..	0 (0)
Premature Births	..	2 (4)
Road Traffic Accident	..	2
Other Violent Causes	..	1
Other Defined diseases	..	10 (13)
Kidney Diseases	..	0 (2)
Total	..	95 (109)

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Typhoid		0 (2)
Scarlet Fever	..	0 (5);	Whooping Cough	.. 0 (6);
Diphtheria	..	1 (6);	Measles	.. 0 (0);
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	(0);	Cerebral Spinal Fever	0 (1);
Tuberculosis - New Cases		13	(9)	
Deaths		6	(2)	

I am, Mrs. Johnstone & Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

F. W. A. WATT.

Acting Medical Officer of Health.